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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/799,768	03/15/2004	Hitoshi Inoue	Q80062	8635

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EXAMINER

EVANISKO, LESLIE J

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2854

DATE MAILED: 07/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/799,768

Applicant(s)

INOUE ET AL.

*AK*

Examiner

Leslie J. Evanisko

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 15 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

3. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukushima et al. (WO 01/45957) in view of Wedel et al. (US 6,573,877). Fukushima et al. teach a method of manufacturing an instrument panel for a vehicle comprising the steps of providing a substrate, depositing an ink

permeative layer so as to cover at least one of an obverse or reverse face of the substrate, providing digital print data according to the design of the instrument panel and jetting ink to the ink permeative layer in accordance with the digital print data. Particular attention is invited to Figures 1-4 and the English language abstract of Fukushima et al. Note that since the method of Fukushima et al. teach the use of an ink jet printer, it would inherently include providing digital print data in order to control the action of ink jet printhead. Although it is not clear whether the print data of Fukushima et al. includes indicative scales, indicative numerals, indicative characters, and indicative symbols as recited since the document is not in the English language, note that Wedel et al. show that an instrument panel for an automobile including indicative scales, numerals, characters and symbols is well known in the art as exemplified by Figure 1 and described in column 3, lines 24-31. In view of this teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide digital print data including any desired indicia to be printed on the instrument panel (such as indicative scales, numerals, characters, and symbols taught by Wedel et al.) in the method of Fukushima et al. as it would simply require an obvious matter of design choice to provide appropriate displays of information to a driver of an automobile.

4. Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fukushima et al. in view of Wedel et al. as applied to claim 8 above, and

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further in view of Kasahara et al. (US 6,599,613). Fukushima et al. in view of Wedel et al. teach a method as recited, with the possible exception of determining the design of the instrument panel according to a request of the driver. Kasahara et al. teach that manufacturing of display plates using an ink jet printer to allow for printing a small quantity of products with an image pattern according to the desire of the customer is well known in the art, as exemplified by Kasahara et al. in column 3, lines 61 through column 5, line 15. In view of this teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to determine the design of the printed display to be printed by the inkjet printer according to the desire of the user as taught by Kasahara et al. in the method of printing an instrument panel set forth in Fukushima et al. as modified by Wedel et al. to allow rapid and cost-efficient personalized production of instrument panels for automobiles.

### ***Conclusion***


5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Wedel (WO 98/36420), Katayama et al. (US 5,601,928), JP 2004-34642, Osawa (JP 2000-111660), JP 11-326548, and JP 2002-127389 each teach an ink jet printing method for printing a display having obvious similarities to the claimed subject matter.

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6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Leslie J. Evanisko** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-2161**. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 7:30 am-6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew H. Hirshfeld can be reached on (571) 272-2168. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Leslie J. Evanisko  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2854

lje  
July 15, 2004